SUBJECTS.

V. *Revenue and Finance.*

39. Fair and equitable distribution of the State finance.

Mr. A. Govinda Menon (Member, Kunnatnad Taluk) commented on the working of almost all the departments of the administration in the State. He made several suggestions with regard to the distribution of the State finance. He stated that increased funds were needed for Agriculture and Education. He also suggested increase of pay to the clerical establishments of the Revenue, Judicial and Registration Departments. He said that the lower ranks of the Police and Forest Departments were very poorly paid. In his opinion, the pay of a Constable should not be less than Rs. 9; and he considered that Guards, Foresters and Rangers should be more liberally treated than they were at present, in order to minimise smuggling. He represented that the sum allotted under public works for purely agricultural purposes should be considerably increased, and the needs of the ryots of Middle and North Travancore, whose interests had hitherto been practically neglected, should be looked into specially. In order to economise expenditure and to meet the needs of the people according to the order of their importance and urgency, the allotments for all kinds of minor works in each division should be spent through a Board, consisting of the Representatives of the taluks, the Chief Engineer, the local Executive Engineer, and the Dewan Peishkar of the Division. He proposed that the development of the vast fisheries in the State should be taken in hand without delay. As a source of revenue, the manufacture of salt in our Allams would, if properly attended to, play an important part in the future. The exploitation by the State of the mineral resources of the country was another source of income which had not received due attention at the hands of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

40. Excise policy of Government

Mr. A. Govinda Menon (Member, Kunnatnad Taluk) suggested that

(1) the principle recognised by the British Government, *viz.*, that the consumption of spirituous liquors should be decreased, by increasing their price and by limiting the number of shops, might be adopted,

(2) the drawing of sweet toddy for *chackara* or *karipatti* should be freely encouraged by Government, and

(3) the sale of spirituous liquors in public places and places of worship should be prohibited.

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SUBJECTS.

Mr. R. Karunakaran Pillai (Member, Parur Taluk) stated that sweet toddy was drawn from toddy-producing trees, not for the purpose of consuming it as toddy, but for manufacturing it into jaggery. He added that the jaggery industry was the prevailing occupation of the Shannars of South Travancore and of the Ezhavas in the North and that it was in its infant stage, and that, like all infant industries, it stood in need of encouragement at the hands of Government. To save the industry from decline, Government had, however, exempted the whole of the Padmanabhapuram Division from the operation of the Sweet-Toddy Rules. He represented that in North Travancore the jaggery industry was in a still more undeveloped condition and it would not thrive there without the support of Government. He suggested therefore that Parur and the adjoining taluks should be exempted from the operation of the new Rules, like the Padmanabhapuram Division. He prayed that Government might institute enquiries into the complaints of those who were engaged in the tapping of sweet toddy, redress their grievances and thus encourage the industry.

Dewan's reply.—It has always been the policy of Government to reduce the consumption of liquor. What is aimed at is the maximum of revenue with the minimum of consumption. In the Sweet Toddy Rules issued recently, care has been taken to exclude those areas where the manufacture of jaggery is a regular industry. The whole of the Padmanabhapuram Division and certain portions of the Neyyattinkara taluk and the whole of the Shencotta taluk have been exempted. At the same time, I have to mention that the information before Government is that there is a large volume of fermented toddy being manufactured and consumed in the Parur and other taluks under cover of sweet toddy. It is the duty of the Excise Department to put down this practice, and if, in doing so, the officers of that Department make searching enquiries as to the antecedents etc. of the applicants for sweet toddy licenses, they are acting rightly.

41. That the proprietors of the saltpans in the Thamrakolam and Variyur Allams should be given as kudivaram two-fifths of the actual selling price of the salt.

Mr. M. Sivathanoo Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram Taluk) represented that the proprietors of the saltpans in the Thamarakolam and Variyur Allams should be given as *kudivaram* $\frac{2}{5}$ of the actual selling price of the salt, instead of only $\frac{2}{5}$ of $7\frac{1}{2}$ chs. or 3 chs. per maund, which was calculated at the old tariff rate that had prevailed since 928 M. E. He added, in reply to a query from the Dewan, that the people whom he

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